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Nick Pope, as well as many other researchers around the world, has come across many cases involving something which intrudes, uninvited, into people's lives.

The idea of a cover-up on the subject of abductions may sound bizarre, but there are persistent rumours of such a conspiracy in the United States, based on little more than an extension of the idea of a UFO cover-up.

'The US Government has struck a deal of some sort'

The theory is that the US Government has struck a deal of some sort with extraterrestrials, and that aliens have been allowed to carry out a programme of abductions in return for technological aid for the Americans.

Some researchers believe such a deal came into being after the alleged Roswell flying saucer crash in July 1947, an event which forced the extraterrestrials to show their hand.

Although this may be just intriguing speculation, Nick's personal view is that it goes too far.

While the US Government may well suspect that abductions occur, it probably has no direct knowledge.

© 1997 Nick Pope. From the book The Uninvited, by Nick Pope, published by Simon & Schuster and to be released in New Zealand next month. RRP \$39.95.

Could these explain ALIEN ABDUCTIONS?

THE TRAUMA OF BIRTH

Psychologists believe birth is such a profound experience that any recollections of abductions are recollections of birth. Abductees report rooms with no right angles. Is this a distorted memory of the womb? Descriptions of alien beings frequently bear more than a passing resemblance to a foetus.

FALSE MEMORY SYNDROME

Memory is not an accurate record of past events.
Sometimes, when we play events over in our minds, what started as something about which we were unsure finishes up as a certainty. This is called false memory syndrome.

ELECTRO-MAGNETISM

Some researchers suggest that many UFO and abduction experiences have their roots in electromagnetic deviations associated with stresses in the Earth's crust. These can cause hallucinations in those who come close to them.

NEAR-DEATH OR OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCES

Typical near-death experiences occur when a person has clinically died for a few seconds, the subject reporting a lifting sensation. There is a feeling they are travelling down a tunnel towards a bright light. Some experts believe this arises from the brain being starved of oxygen, but how then do those reporting near-death experiences recall details of conversations which took place outside the room they were in at the time?

A typical subject may be lying in bed when their awareness leaves their body and floats upward. They see their body below them and may panic, fearing they will not be able to return to their body. Often the return, when it comes, is accompanied by a jolting sensation.

SLEEP PARALYSIS

This happens in the borderline state between being asleep and awake. People may wake up, momentarily unable to move, perhaps giving them the impression something is holding them down.

HOAXES

Fraudsters are often quite intelligent people, capable of constructing intricate and believable fantasies.

Some do it for fun, others for publicity and money. There are those, too, who need to be at the centre of dramatic events. However, bogus stories account for only a few abduction reports.

TEMPORAL LOBE DISTURBANCE

The temporal lobes are areas of the brain associated with memory, emotion and the understanding of speech. They can be quite labile (that means responsive to stimulation) and give rise to the feeling of a strange presence nearby, a sense of ascending into the air – and panic.

CHILD SEX ABUSE

The mental scars from such devastating cases can be carried by victims for life. The mind may suppress memories of traumatic events, but they never disappear and can resurface in a jumbled or disguised form at any time.

and red rotating lights. At the hub of the "wheel" was a bright white light.

A blue and white light about the size of a football appeared through her bedroom wall and Maria heard a voice telling her not to be frightened but to follow the light.

As if compelled, she did so, and was led through the closed front door and, once outside, pulled into the air.

Something was moving inside her stomach

She couldn't help noticing a tennis ball in a gutter of the house, and later pinpointed its exact location.

Maria found herself standing before three small brown creatures. They were about 140cm tall, naked, with hairless smooth skin and large eyes.

She was led into a domed room where another taller white creature stood in front of her. Once she looked into its large black eyes, Maria could not look away.

The being communicated a thought to her: "Has it been so long?"

Then she was lying on the platform, being prodded with a lime-green device. Everywhere it touched her, bruises later appeared.

A block descended from the ceiling, bathing her with a blue-white light. Then a long filament was stuck in her neck, causing terrible pain. The tall alien touched her and stared into her eyes. It was as if she had been anaesthetised.

She glanced down and, to her horror, saw there was something moving inside her stomach. There was a sharp pull at her navel, then the sound of things being



Maria Ward. Aliens showed an image recalling her childhood painting.

Have you been ABDUCTED?

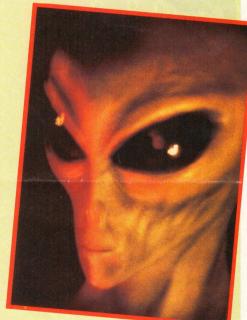
The following scenarios are taken from the special 1991 American Rober Poll that was held on Unusual Personal Experiences. They may suggest an alien abduction has taken place:

Waking up paralysed with a sense of a strange person or presence or something else in your room.

Peeling that you were actually flying through the air – although you didn't know why or how.

Experiencing a period of time of an hour or more in which you were apparently lost, but you could not remember why, or where you had been.

Seeing unusual lights or balls of light in a room without knowing what was causing them, or where they came from.



Finding puzzling scars on your body, and neither you nor anyone else remembering how you received them or where you got them.

put in a tray, out of sight.

At another stage, something was placed up her nose.

Finally she was left alone with the brown creatures, before another tall being arrived and scrutinised her.

Then images were flashed in front of her, apocalyptic and distressing.

One showed the earth, as if viewed from space, with what appeared to be an horrendous yellow and black bruise over the North Pole. A warning about the hole in the ozone layer?

Another image was of a nuclear explosion in the south of France.

But the most intriguing image was of an orange and brown desert. Through the gloomy, dust-filled atmosphere she could make out *two* orange suns. This reminded her of a painting she had drawn when she was seven. Could this be an image of the aliens' home planet?

Finally, Maria was led out of the room and, the next thing she knew, she was walking up the stairs to her bedroom. It was 4.23am.

When she awoke the next day, she could not remember anything, but when brushing her hair she noticed a lot was missing from the back of her head.

Her T-shirt was covered with strange orange material, and her feet were dirty. She felt as if she were in shock, and she began to suffer from claustrophobia.

Unable to find any obvious cause, her doctor suggested hypnosis to relax her, and this was when Maria recounted her story of the abduction.

Regression revealed that at 16, she had been sealed in a perspex capsule which floated above the ground and was filled with a jelly-like pink liquid.

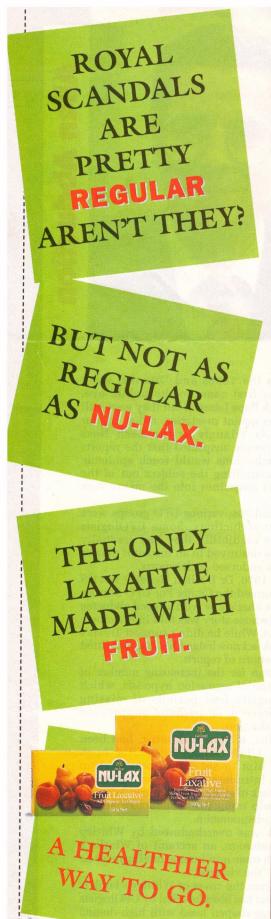
This is the only regression session Maria has undergone. Once her memories surfaced, the rest emerged unaided.

Meanwhile, she has passed two polygraph lie detector tests given by an expert.

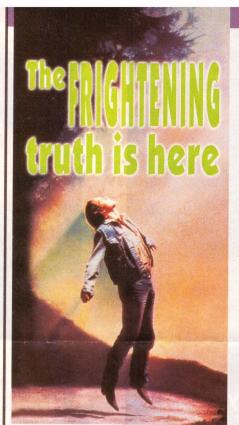
COVER-UPS?

s alien abduction a threat? Whether or not one believes these events are of extraterrestrial origin is irrelevant, because the fact is many people are suffering as a result of the phenomenon.

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name) contacted Budd Hopkins believing she was an abductee.

Hypnotic regression seemed to confirm a series of abductions, starting in childhood, by small, grey beings who carried out procedures such as nasal implants. This was becoming a

familiar story to researchers like Budd.

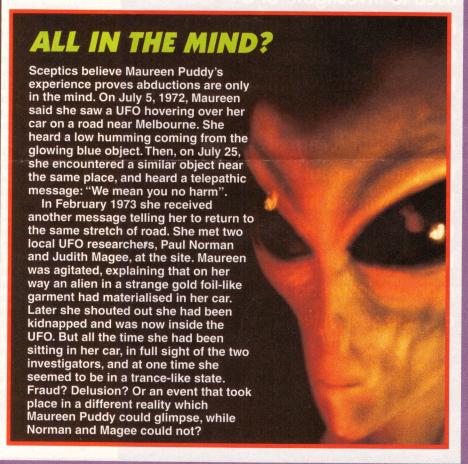
"Linda" contacted him again towards the end of the year. Under regression hypnosis, she recalled being floated through the glass of her New York apartment window, up a blue beam of light into an oval-shaped craft and having a medical procedure of some sort carried out on her. She was then returned.

In February 1991, Budd received a letter allegedly from two police officers, signing themselves Richard and Dan. They told how they had been on patrol on November 30, 1989, when they had seen a huge UFO near Brooklyn Bridge. The craft had fired a beam of blue light at an apartment block, and they saw a woman in a white nightdress floating up the beam into the craft, accompanied by three smaller figures.

It transpired later that Richard and Dan were actually security personnel guarding a senior political figure, who also confirmed sighting the abduction, referring to himself only as "The Third Man".

Then another letter reached Budd from a woman who said she had been driving over Brooklyn Bridge in the early hours of November 30, 1989, when she had seen the UFO, the blue beam and the figure of a woman who was floating up the beam.

The identity of that senior political figure was eventually revealed by Richard and Dan. Although he has



Abductions of humans by aliens are not always hoaxes or the result of a vivid imagination. So says NICK POPE who used to investigate UFO reports for the British Government. He was known jokingly to his colleagues as their Fox Mulder, but research into the controversial subject has convinced him that the abductions are terrifyingly real and more widespread than anyone suspected.



T WAS in the 1960s and '70s that alien abductions first came to the public eye, claims Nick Pope (above), but they were still regarded as quaint mysteries, rather similar to the Bermuda Triangle or the Loch Ness Monster. Few people suspected that the reports of any such abductions would reach epidemic proportions, catapulting the subject out of the domain of UFO magazines into the mainstream media.

But by the mid-70s, various UFO groups were cautious about abductions. Some UFOlogists feared that any credibility they had gradually earned might be destroyed in an instant if they or their colleagues endorsed such reports.

However, in 1976, Dr J. Allen Hynek – the US scientist who formed the Centre For UFO Studies – appeared on a chat show with alleged abductee Travis Walton (whose story was told in the movie Fire In The Sky). While he didn't support Travis's claim, Dr Hynek acknowledged his account fitted the emerging pattern of reports.

An explanation for the increasing number of these was the use of regression hypnosis, which helped UFOlogists find periods of missing time and repressed or perhaps suppressed memories of abduction.

Budd Hopkins, a New York artist, had been interested in UFOs since 1964. His book *Intruders* led him to set up an organisation known as the Intruders Foundation, aimed at creating a network of sympathetic researchers and therapists to help traumatised abductees and to investigate the phenomenon.

Budd's book was overshadowed by Whitley Strieber's *Communion*, an account of Whitley's encounters with some non-human intelligences he chooses to call "the visitors".

Staring out from the cover of Whitley's book is the image of what has been labelled by UFOlogists as a Grey: an egg-shaped head with high-domed forehead, a rather anonymous nose, a slit for a mouth and upward-slanting, almond-shaped eyes that are intelligent, hypnotic, enigmatic.

In April 1989, "Linda Cortile" (not her real

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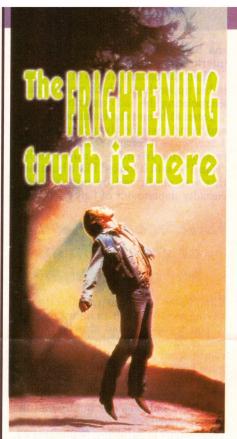
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James, intrigued by the lights he could see through the canvas of their tent, went outside.

He saw several orange balls of light that seemed to be dancing in the air over a nearby field. He pointed them out to Pamela, and the couple watched mesmerised as the glowing spheres moved silently around.

After a couple of minutes, James decided to fetch his camera, but what happened next remains unclear.

Pamela recalls that James reappeared and commented on a pile of cigarette ends at Pamela's feet, which seemed odd because he had been away for only a minute or so, and she could not have smoked that many.

But, when they looked at their watches, it was 5.40am. This meant that more than two- and-a-half hours could not be accounted for.

James later recalled he had been in a circular white room, lying on his back on something cold. He could see figures dressed in robes rather like those worn by the Ku Klux Klan.

He has no idea what happened to him, but believes it was beneficial.

n English clairvoyant called "Jayne" attributes her strange powers to an encounter with aliens in November 1992. She had gone to bed about 10pm, but could not sleep. Later, she heard a strange buzzing sound which made her hair stand on end, and the family's two dogs started to whine.

Then, about 1am, she heard her eldest son "Mark" arguing with his girlfriend "Sue", who had been staying with them. He was trying to get her out of the house.

Later, he told her he had felt a sense of impending danger, that something was going to happen in which he did not want his girlfriend to become involved.

At 1.45am, "Jayne" heard the sound of a blast of air and felt herself being lifted up and carried into a corridor.

She could see little grey figures all

She felt herself being sucked into a vortex?

around her. She was frightened, but kept telling herself it was only a dream. However, at the back of her mind, she knew very well it was not.

She entered a brightly lit oval room with three pyramid designs on the wall, and a medical examination was carried out. She had pains in her stomach and felt that something was being done to her head, particularly to her ears.

Then she was taken to where a lot of people were talking and relaxing. Her awareness began to sharpen, and she suddenly started to appreciate the enormity and strangeness of what was occurring. A thought crystallised in her mind: "They're aliens!"

And then she felt herself being sucked into a vortex, followed by a thump as she fell into her own bed.

She could not wake her husband who, when he finally heard about her "nightmare" next morning, gave her his complete support.

For the whole of the day, "Jayne" suffered from shaking, headaches and

extreme thirst.

The family's dogs and cat refused to go into the house, and when her son came home that evening his first words were: "What the hell was going on in your room last night?"

After "Sue" had gone home, "Mark" had been unable to sleep and had seen a green fluorescent light shining all around his door. He heard an eerie whooshing sound, together with what sounded like loud voices, although unlike anything he had heard before.

"Jayne" also recalls waking up in the middle of the night, not in bed but on a hard surface. She had felt warm and comfortable and was aware of a narrow lilac/white light above her and of two figures on either side of her.

She heard a conversation: "She is aware of where she is." "She can't be.'

never confirmed the story, the man concerned was, apparently, Javier Perez de Cuellar, then the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

UFOlogists were split as to whether the case represented a breakthrough in terms of corroboration or whether it was an audacious hoax.

ENCOUNTER IN THE PARK

n June 1992, "Patsy Ryan", a 28-year old psychology graduate, was spending a quiet afternoon in a park near her London home when suddenly she felt herself being lifted up into the air in a violent spinning motion. She seemed to be about 15 metres above the ground, and she felt embarrassed that others would see her up in the air.

Such a thought might suggest she was dreaming, but there was a compelling piece of evidence to show that something much more astonishing

had happened.

Willing herself to return, she came down slowly but surely, although she is clear in her own mind the last part of her descent was the hardest. She remembers a jolting sensation, which

she believes was her spiritual body interlocking with her physical self.

Then she became aware of great pain in her upper thigh, which was the most excruciating she had ever known.

Later, at home, she examined her leg and found a wound about 2cm long and 1.5cm wide. It became redder and more raised. Her friend – a nurse called "Hazel" – said it looked like a burn, and this was confirmed by nurses in the casualty department of Guy's Hospital.

She became aware of great pain in her upper thigh?

But "Patsy" had no recollection of having received such an injury.

The wound healed slowly, but the scar remained. Still faintly visible, it is reminiscent of the type of scars that have been often reported by abductees as resulting from operations carried out by extraterrestrials.

"Patsy" believes she finally met the extraterrestrials face to face about three years later. On Saturday, September 23, 1995, a group of people had assembled outside the central London art shop where she worked. "Patsy" said to one of her colleagues it looked as though a

coach party had arrived. The 13-strong group was definitely unusual. All were oddly dressed, as if uncomfortable in their clothes. One man, for instance, was wearing a stylish pinstripe suit, but had a pair of scruffy sneakers on his feet.

A man with what seemed to be an American accent said hello to "Patsy" as they came into the shop, but she found herself unable to speak. It was as if an other-wordly atmosphere had descended. All the visitors were talking, but "Patsy" and her colleague could not make out a single clear word.

Having made no purchases, the group filtered out of the shop - then a Nordic-looking woman came forward

and bought a single pencil.

Since then, "Patsy" has flirted briefly with the world of UFOlogy, but has decided it is a world with which she wants little to do.

EERIE HOLIDAY INCIDENT

uring September 1990, James and Pamela Millen went on a camping trip in Dorset, in England's West Country. One night they woke up just before 3am and Please turn the page

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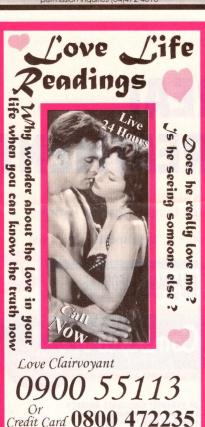
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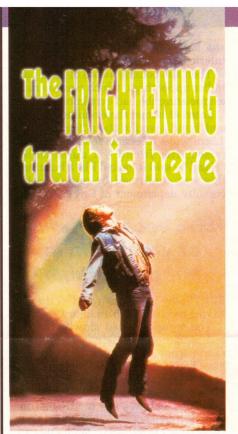
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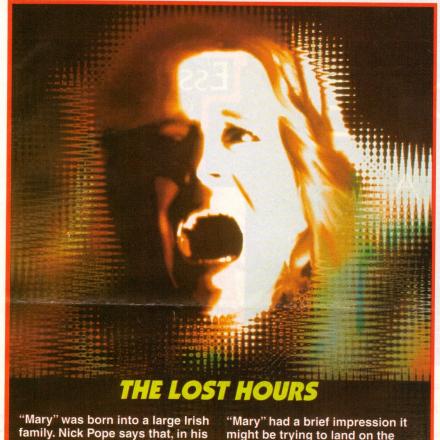
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"Mary" was born into a large Irish family. Nick Pope says that, in his experience, people of Celtic origin appear to be more open to paranormal concepts than most and, maybe because of this openness, are more likely to experience paranormal phenomena. The experiences of "Mary" began when she was a child, but one of the strangest she can recall took place last October. "Mary", now a secretary and living in London, was driving north along Britain's M1 motorway with a friend, "Brenda". Just outside the city of Leeds, she noticed what she thought was a small aircraft flying across the road ahead of them. It turned towards their car and, while

might be trying to land on the motorway, "Brenda" reached for some drinks that were in a bag on the floor of the car. When she looked up again, she yelled: "Where are we?" They were no longer on the motorway, but on a traffic roundabout in central Leeds. Just before "Mary" saw the aircraft, they had made a note of the time: 2pm. Now, an instant later as far as they were concerned, it was 5.30pm. This fits the classic story of aliens intercepting people travelling in cars, but surely anything so unusual would have been witnessed by other motorists. Could some form of mass hypnosis have been involved?

"We've got to take her back."

She then felt a spiralling sensation and found herself back in bed.

The next day she was positive the experience had been real, and not just a dream. "Jayne" has since developed a gift of precognition – the ability to see the future – and is now highly regarded as a talented clairvoyant.

NIGHT TERRORS

hildhood recollections of "when the moon landed in the garden" came back to haunt Maria Ward after the birth of her son Andras.

The doctors were curious about a strange scar on her navel, consistent with keyhole surgery. Maria was shocked and frightened as, apart from the removal of a cyst on her ear, she had never had surgery. But she did her best to forget the mystery and got on with family life – until the day when her husband John went away on a training course for a few days.

The first night Maria woke exactly at 3.17am, as if someone had shaken her awake, and she noticed a bright light outside.

She saw an object shaped like a gigantic wheel, with spokes and an outer rim festooned with blue, white Please turn to page 91